Welcome GPIDEA Community Development Students:

We are excited to see many of you back in classes and all the new faces as well, or should we say emails. We write this letter to call your attention to three things:

1. First, we are planning a rather informal virtual open house for the On-line master's Degree Program and particularly for students who take classes from ISU. We will provide information on using WebCt and hope to have a presentation from the library on using their virtual collections service. We will have the Wimba classroom open from 4 to 8 on January 6 and 7. You can access the classroom at: http://iastate.wimba.com/launcher.cgi?room=_iastate_s_1132116503101_100853&X-Wimba-ContextType=SECTION&X-Wimba-InstitutionLCID=4130011&X-Wimba-IntegrationType=classroom&X-Wimba-RoomId=_iastate_s_1132116503101_100853&X-Wimba-LCID=1431077295041&X-Wimba-Account=_iastate_&X-Wimba-PlatformType=bbvista&X-Wimba-IntegrationVersion=4.0.0-1 If you have trouble the call in number is: **(201) 549-7592; pin *[xxxxxxx]***

    We will post the schedule of presentations in the classroom. I will be on to provide an overview of the program, keys to success and an introduction to community development Wednesday at 4 and Thursday at 7. Someone should be monitoring the Wimba classroom at all times in case you want to chat or have questions.

2. We are inviting you to an all program meeting. We are setting two dates so as many of you as possible can participate: January 12th at 7 PM and January 20th at 8 PM. We will use the Wimba classroom for the meeting which allows Voice over IP and has a chat log http://iastate.wimba.com/launcher.cgi?room=_iastate_s_1132116503101_100853&X-Wimba-ContextType=SECTION&X-Wimba-InstitutionLCID=4130011&X-Wimba-IntegrationType=classroom&X-Wimba-RoomId=_iastate_s_1132116503101_100853&X-Wimba-LCID=1431077295041&X-Wimba-Account=_iastate_&X-Wimba-PlatformType=bbvista&X-Wimba-IntegrationVersion=4.0.0-1 If you have trouble the call in number is: **(201) 549-7592; pin *[xxxxxxx]***

    The agenda for this meeting includes the following:
    a. Introduction of current Student Advisory Council members, discussion on the Council, and request for new members.
    b. Strategies for communication: are you on FB? Is there a better way? Do students in tracks want an opportunity to network? For example, students in the Working with Native Communities Track

come from many different circumstances - would you like to get together, learn from one another, and give us feedback?

    c. Other opportunities.

        i. The Community Development Society (CDS) is asking for proposals for posters. Check the website for more detail. Information on the conference in New Orleans is available at www.comm-dev.org In the past students have participated for special topics credit.

        ii. Some students have asked about a face-to-face session on public participation/facilitation methods. How many are interested in attending a summer session with 2-3 days at a location to be determined by who signs up?

3. Third, please check the policy on withdrawing at your institution. It is very important that you contact us if you get behind. Simply letting the course go means that we will have to give you an F which stays on your permanent record.

4. Fourth, we want to remind everyone that each University has its own graduation requirements. You must check with that graduate school on deadlines, forms, and other requirements. We urge each of you to identify your major professor and finalize your committee by the end of your second semester in the program.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:
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